 **Commonly asked questions?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What are my options?** | ***Septic tanks/ sewage treatment plants/ cesspools. – Check out the website for more details on each.*** |
| **How long does a septic tank / treatment system last?** | ***As long as they are maintained correctly they can last for 40 years +*** |
| **How often does my septic tank need to be emptied?** | ***It is advised that they are emptied every 6 – 12 months. Biopure systems are slightly different and only need emptying every 3 – 5 years.*** |
| **Should I add a bacterial activator to my system?** | ***No! – All bacteria will form naturally during an aerobic process. Professionals emptying the tank will always ensure that a small amount of effluent is left at the bottom for faster start up.*** |
| **What size tank do I need?** | ***Tank sizes will vary as demands of domestic and Glamping sites differ. Each individual site will need to be sized based on the needs.*** |
| **Which system can I use if I have no electricity?** | ***Pumps can be run via solar power however the most common solution is a holding tank.*** |
| **Can water from a treatment plant be used for watering flowers?** | ***Yes it can but not for use on vegetables.*** |
| **What happens if my ground is Hard, rocky or mainly shale or clay?** | ***These can all cause issues but each individual site needs to be visited to identify the best solutions.*** |
| **What is the best system to use if we are close to a stream or river?** | ***Sewage treatment systems must be used in this instance, as they discharge clean water.*** |
| **How do I know if my septic tank is full?** | ***Toilets will take longer to flush, can be nasty smells and dirty pools of discharge water.*** |
| **What are the 2020 regulations?** | ***Septic tanks can no longer discharge in to ditches, rivers or streams. Septic tanks must be replaced or upgraded to full sewage treatment systems by 1st of Jan 2020*** |
| **How far does a treatment system or septic tank need to be from a dwelling?** | ***Percolation Area: 10 metres. Septic Tank: 7 metres. Sewage Treatment System: 7 metres.*** |
| **Do I need planning permission?** | ***It is advised by the environmental agency that you check with the planning authorities.*** |